

Amendments To The Claims

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): An integrated process for making an inflatable laminated article, comprising the steps of:

- (A) extruding a first flat film and a second flat film;
- (B) cooling the first flat film and the second flat film so that the first and second flat films will not fuse to one another upon contact with each other;
- (C) contacting the first flat film with the second flat film;
- (D) heating selected portions of at least one of the first and second flat films to a temperature above a fusion temperature, so that the first and second flat films are heat sealed to one another at a selected area, with the selected area providing a heat seal pattern which provides inflatable chambers between the first flat film and the second flat film, the heating being carried out by passing the first and second flat films together in a partial wrap around a heated roller having a raised surface; and
- (E) winding up or transporting the first and second flat films after they are heat sealed to one another, with the inflatable chambers uninflated.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the selected portions of at least one of the first and second flat films are heated while they are in contact with one another, with the heat sealing being carried out using a combination of heat and pressure.

Claim 3 (original): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the contacting step and the heating step are performed simultaneously.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the first and second flat films are extruded simultaneously.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the cooling step comprises contacting at least one of the first and second flat films with at least one cooling roll.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the first and second flat films are extruded by separate extruders.

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (currently amended): The process according to Claim & 1, wherein a ~~the~~ second roll has a raised surface corresponding to the raised surface of the first roll, and the raised surfaces of the first and second rolls are operatively aligned in nip relationship with to heat seal the selected portions of the first flat film and the second flat film passing through the nip.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The process according to Claim & 1, wherein the heated roll has a continuous raised surface therearound.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the first and second flat films are heat sealed to one another in a repeating pattern of sealed and unsealed areas.

Claim 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (currently amended): The process according to Claim ~~13~~ 1, wherein the heated roller having the raised surface has a release coating thereon.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The process according to Claim ~~13~~ 1, wherein the raised surface on the heated roller has a surface roughness of from 50 to 500 rms.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The process according to Claim 13, further comprising cooling the first and second flat films after heating the selected portions of the flat films, the cooling being carried out by passing the first and second flat films together in a partial wrap around a cooling roller.

Claim 17 (original): The process according to Claim 16, wherein the cooling roller has a release coating thereon.

Claim 18 (previously amended): The process according to Claim 17, wherein the cooling roller has a Shore A hardness of from 40 to 100.

Claim 19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (currently amended): The process according to Claim 8, wherein the first flat film and the second flat film are forwarded at a speed of at least 120 feet per minute, and the roller having the patterned raised surface is heated and has a release coating thereon and raised surface edges rounded off to a radius of from 1/256 inch to 3/8 inch, and further comprising a cooling roller downstream of and in nip relationship with the roller having the patterned raised surface, the cooling roller also having a release coating thereon.

Claim 22 (original): The process according to Claim 21, wherein the first film and the second film are forwarded at a speed of from 120 to 500 feet per minute, with the patterned raised surface having a surface roughness of from 50 to 500 root mean square, and the release coating on the cooling roller having a Shore A hardness of from 40 to 100.

Claim 23 (newly presented): The process according to Claim 1, wherein after cooling, the first flat film and the second flat film make a partial wrap around a roller which is upstream of the heated roller having the raised surface.

Claim 24 (newly presented): The process according to Claim 23, wherein the roller which is upstream of the heated roller having the raised surface is in nip relation with the heated roller having the raised surface.

Claim 25 (newly presented): The process according to Claim 24, wherein the second flat film is between the first flat film and the heated roller having the raised surface, and both the first flat film and the second flat film make a partial wrap around the roller in nip relation with the heated roller having the raised surface, and the first flat film makes a longer partial wrap around the roller in nip relation than does the second flat film.

Claim 26 (newly presented): The process according to Claim 14, wherein the release coating comprises a polyinfused coating.

Claim 27 (newly presented): The process according to Claim 26, wherein the polyinfused coating comprises polyinfused polytetrafluoroethylene.

Claim 28 (newly presented): The process according to Claim 27, wherein the raised surface on the heated roller has a surface roughness of from 50 to 500 rms.

Claim 29 (newly presented): An integrated process for making an inflatable laminated article, comprising the steps of:

- (A) extruding a first flat film and a second flat film;
- (B) cooling the first flat film and the second flat film so that the first and second flat films will not fuse to one another upon contact with each other;
- (C) contacting the first flat film with the second flat film;

- (D) heating selected portions of at least one of the first and second flat films to a temperature above a fusion temperature, so that the first and second flat films are heat sealed to one another at a selected area, with the selected area providing a heat seal pattern which provides inflatable chambers between the first flat film and the second flat film, the heating being carried out by passing the first and second flat films together in a partial wrap around a heated roller having a raised surface, with the second flat film being between the first flat film and the raised surface of the heated roller; and
- (E) winding up or transporting the first and second flat films after they are heat sealed to one another, with the inflatable chambers uninflated.

Claim 30 (newly presented): The process according to Claim 29, wherein the second flat film is in direct contact with the raised surface of the heated roller.

Claim 31 (newly presented): The process according to Claim 29, wherein the second flat film comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of polyamide and polyethylene terephthalate.

Claim 32 (newly presented): The process according to Claim 29, wherein the first flat film comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of polyamide and polyethylene terephthalate.

Claim 33 (newly presented): The process according to Claim 29, wherein the first flat film comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of polyamide and polyethylene terephthalate, and the second flat film comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of polyamide and polyethylene terephthalate.

Claim 34 (newly presented): An integrated process for making an inflatable laminated article, comprising the steps of:

- (A) extruding a first flat film and a second flat film;
- (B) cooling the first flat film and the second flat film so that the flat films will not fuse to one another upon contact with each other;
- (C) contacting the first flat film with the second flat film while the first flat film and the second flat film are being forwarded at a speed of at least 120 feet per minute;
- (D) heating selected portions of at least one of the first and second flat films by passing the first and second flat films together in a partial wrap around a heated roller having a raised surface having a release coating thereon, with the raised surface having a surface roughness of from 50 to 500 rms, and the raised surface having edges rounded off to a radius of from 1/256 inch to 3/8 inch, with the selected portions of the first and second flat films being heated to a temperature above a fusion temperature, so that the first and second flat films are heat sealed to one another at a selected area, with the selected area providing a heat seal pattern which provides inflatable chambers between the first flat film and the second flat film; and

- (E) cooling the first and second flat films after heating the selected portions of the flat films, the cooling being carried out by passing the first and second flat films together in a partial wrap around a cooling roller having a release coating thereon, the release coating on the cooling roller having a Shore A hardness of from 40 to 100 the cooling roller being in nip relationship with the heated roller having the raised surface; and
- (E) winding up or transporting the first and second flat films after they are heat sealed to one another, with the inflatable chambers uninflated.

Claim 35 (newly presented): The process according to Claim 34, wherein the first flat film contacts the second flat film while the first and second flat films are being forwarded at a speed of from 150 to 500 feet per minute.

Claim 36 (newly presented): The process according to Claim 34, wherein the first flat film contacts the second flat film while the first and second flat films are being forwarded at a speed of from 150 to 300 feet per minute.

Claim 37 (newly presented): The process according to Claim 34, wherein the release coating on the heated roller having the raised surface comprises a polyinfused coating.

Claim 38 (newly presented): The process according to Claim 37, wherein the polyinfused coating comprises polytetrafluoroethylene.

Claim 39 (newly presented): An integrated process for making an inflatable laminated article, comprising the steps of:

- (A) extruding a first flat film and a second flat film;
- (B) cooling the first flat film and the second flat film so that the first and second flat films will not fuse to one another upon contact with each other;
- (C) heating selected portions of the second flat film to a temperature above a fusion temperature, by passing the second flat film in a partial wrap around a heated roller having a raised surface;
- (D) contacting the first flat film with the second flat film after the second flat film passes a point of initial contact with the heated roller, with the second flat film being between the heated roller and the first flat film, so that the first and second flat films are heat sealed to one another at a selected area, with the selected area providing a heat seal pattern which provides inflatable chambers between the first flat film and the second flat film; and
- (E) winding up or transporting the first and second flat films after they are heat sealed to one another, with the inflatable chambers uninflated.

Claim 40 (newly presented): The process according to Claim 39, wherein the second flat film is passed in a partial wrap around the heated roller having a raised surface, and the first flat film is passed in a partial wrap around a second roller which is in a nip relationship with the second roller.

Claim 41 (newly presented): The process according to Claim 40, wherein the second roller is a heated roller having a raised surface which is operatively aligned with the raised surface of the first roller to heat seal the selected portions of the first film and the second film.